

**What is TB?** An infection, usually of the lungs, by bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

**How is tuberculosis spread?** TB bacteria spread through the air when a person with **active TB disease** coughs, sneezes, shouts, or even sings. When other people breathe these bacteria into their lungs, they become infected. The body reacts to TB bacteria by forming capsules around the germs and holding them in check. At this stage, a person is **infected** with TB, but is neither sick nor contagious. Nine out of ten people who are infected with TB will **never** be sick or contagious. In 10% of people who get infected, however, the TB bacteria will break out of the capsules and cause people to be sick and contagious. This is called **active TB disease**. The following table compares and contrasts TB *infection* and active TB *disease*.

<b>TB Infection</b>	<b>Active TB Disease</b>
TB bacteria in the body	TB bacteria in the body
TB skin test (PPD) is usually positive	TB skin test (PPD) is usually positive
Chest x-ray is usually <b>normal</b>	Chest x-ray <b>may be abnormal</b>
Sputum (coughed-up mucous) tests are <b>negative</b>	Sputum tests are <b>positive</b>
<b>No</b> symptoms of TB	<b>Symptoms</b> including cough (often with blood), fever, fatigue, night sweats, and weight loss
<b>Not</b> contagious	<b>Contagious before treatment.</b> Usually not contagious after 2-12 weeks of antibiotic treatment
<b>Not</b> a case of TB	<b>A case of active TB</b>

**What should people do if they think they have been exposed?** The risk of being infected is low. It usually takes close contact, indoors, for a prolonged time to become infected. Those who have had such close and prolonged contact should have a TB skin test. If that test is negative, exposed persons should have a TB skin test 3 months after the last time they were exposed to the case of **active TB during the contagious period**. The reason for this is that it can take a maximum of 3 months after someone gets infected with TB for the TB skin test to become positive.

**What if my TB skin test was positive?** A positive TB skin test usually means that a person is infected with TB. It is **very important** that a doctor evaluate someone with a positive test for active TB. This can be done through a person's doctor or Central District Health Department.

**What is the treatment?** It is **very important for people with TB infection to take a 6 to 9 month course of one antibiotic to prevent them from becoming sick and accidentally spreading TB to their family, friends or coworkers**. People with active TB disease will take a 6-12 month course of up to four different antibiotics.

If you have any questions, please call your doctor or local health department.

**See other side for TB testing information**



Central District Health Department  
707 N. Armstrong Place  
Boise, ID 83704  
Epidemiology (208) 327-8625

Immunizations Program  
707 N. Armstrong Place  
Boise, ID 83704  
(208) 327-7450

Elmore County Office  
520 E. 8th Street N.  
Mt Home, ID 83647  
(208) 587-9225

Valley County Office  
703 N. First Street  
McCall, ID 83638  
(208) 634-7194

# TUBERCULOSIS (TB) TESTING

PPD Test (Skin Test)

PLEASE NOTE: TB TESTING IS A TWO-STEP PROCESS.

After the PPD test is given the test must be read (evaluated) **no sooner** than 48 hours (two days) after the test and **no later** than 72 hours (three days) after the test. Please keep that in mind when scheduling a PPD. Call the Immunization Program to find out how much a PPD test will cost. CDHD's Main Office in Boise offers TB testing through its Immunization Clinics during regular office hours.

## Immunization Clinic Schedule • Boise Main Office

(August 2004)

**Monday , Tuesday & Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

**Wednesday from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM**

**Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM**



***Appointments are recommended. Please call 327-7450.***

For *Valley County* testing hours, call 630-8002 and for *Elmore County* testing hours, call 587-4407.

## Directions to Central District Health Department

Boise Main Office • 707 N. Armstrong Place

Five Mile Road

Mitchell

Maple Grove

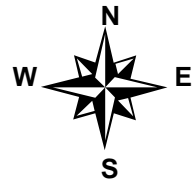
Central District  
Health Department



707 N. Armstrong  
Place

Emerald Street

Franklin Road



Boise  
Towne  
Square  
Mall